

Message Text

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44

ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 EUR-12 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01

SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SS-15

NSC-05 L-03 /088 W

----- 014561

R 271120Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3901

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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FOR AGRICULTURE, FAS, FCA, GRAIN AND FEED DIVISION

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR ETRD EPAP ENRG TH CH

SUBJECT: THAI RICE SITUATION

REF: FASTO CIRCULAR 331

1. BEST INFORMATION AVAILABLE SUGGEST CURRENT RICE SUPPLIES IN THAILAND EXCEED DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER BY 250,000 TO 300,000 METRIC TONS. THIS LEAVES ENDING STOCKS AT NEAR NORMAL LEVELS AS HARVEST OF THE MAIN 1976/1977 CROP, NOW ESTIMATED AT 9.6 MILLION TONS (MILLED BASIS), BEGINS IN LATE NOVEMBER.

2. A TIGHT SHORT-RUN SITUATION EXISTS IN THAT EXPORT COMMITMENTS FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER EXCEED AVAILABLE SUPPLIES. WITH THE LARGE 1975/76 HARVEST, GOT ANNOUNCED AN EXPORT TARGET OF 1.5 MILLION TONS FOR THE 1976 MARKETING YEAR. WITH TWO MONTHS YET TO GO,
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IT NOW APPEARS EXPORTS AND/OR COMMITMENTS ALREADY EXCEED 1.8

MILLION TONS. THIS SITUATION RESULTED FROM HEAVY PRIVATE TRADE
ALONG WITH LARGE G-TO-G SALE ARRANGEMENTS WITH INDONESIA,
SINGAPORE, MALAYSIA, MALAGASY AND BANGLADESH.

3. SOME TRADERS HAVE SEIZED UPON THIS OPPORTUNITY AND CURRENT
UNSTABLE POLITICAL CONDITIONS TO SIT ON SUPPLIES IN HOPES OF
IMMEDIATE PRICE GAINS. GOT REPORTEDLY HOPES TO REDUCE UPWARD
PRESSURE ON DOMESTIC RICE PRICES BY OBTAINING PERMISSION FROM
OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO DEFER SHIPMENTS UNTIL DECEMBER.

4. COMMENTS RECEIVED ON SITUATION IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES ARE
VAGUE AND MIXED. TRADE SUGGEST 1976/77 RICE HARVEST IN BURMA WILL
BE SLIGHTLY BELOW PREVIOUS CROP. EFFORTS COULD, HOWEVER, STILL
BE MADE TO EXPORT UP TO 100,000 TONS DURING 1977. VIETNAM, IT
IS THOUGHT, WILL CONTINUE TO NEED RICE FROM PRC
BUT WILL ATTEMPT TO EXPORT A FEW THOUSAND TONS AS A MATTER OF
SELF PRIDE. ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OBTAINED ON SUBJECT WILL
BE SUPPLIED IMMEDIATELY.
BURKE

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